

Remarks

Claims 1, 3 to 20 are in the application. Claims 15 to 20 have been added. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to remove a typographical error or to better clarify the invention.

It is noted that the Examiner has restricted the application under 35 USC §121 based upon the claims in the Published PCT application. However, Applicants upon entry into the United States under the provisions of §371 submitted a preliminary amendment on October 22, 1997. This amendment cancelled claim 2, amended the multiple dependencies, and added claims 8 to 14. A copy of that preliminary amendment accompanies this response.

This application is derived from PCT application EP96/01706. Neither the International Searching Authority, or the International Preliminary Examination Authority found the claims to be lacking in unity. Consequently, under the provisions of Article 27(1) of the PCT to which the USPTO is bound thereto it is believed that the present restriction is incorrect. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction under 35 USC §121 is respectfully requested.

In order to further prosecution on the merits however, Applicants elect, with traverse, the methods claims of Group I, claim 1 and 4, cited by the Examiner, which now include newly added claims 15 to 20 as well.

Conclusion

Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the number below. It is not believed that this paper should cause any additional fees or charges to be required, other than expressly provided for already. However, if this is not the case the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit account 19-2570 accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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